The following preventive measures are taken:—

(i) Warning Boards are displayed in all the coaches.

(ii) Carriage of inflammable articles by passenger-carrying trains is banned.

(iii) RPF staff on platform duty have been directed to check unauthorized carriage of inflammable articles.

(iv) Parcel Booking Clerks and Luggage Booking Clerks have been instructed to ensure that no inflammable articles is booked by passenger-carrying trains.

(v) An Instant Action Group has been introduced in selected super-fast trains, which also prevents entry of unauthorized per sons including vendours who carry "Sikiri"; and

(vi) During festival seasons like Diwali, special checks are conducted on passenger-carrying trains to ensure that no fire crackers are carried.

तुगलकाबाद कन्टेनर डिपो से सामान की चोरी

1193. **श्री राघवजी:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि तुगलकाबाद कन्टेनर डिपो में निर्यात किए जाने वाले सामान में से चोरी की अनेक घटनाएं गत कुछ महीनों में घटी है;

(ख) वर्ष 1996-97 के दौरान ऐसी कितनी घटनाएं हुई हैं और प्रति वर्ष चोरी किए गए सामानों का अनुमानित मूल्य कितना है;

(ग) उपर्युक्त चोरी की घटनाओं को रोकने के लिए किए गए प्रयासों का ब्यौरा क्या है और यह प्रयास कहां तक सफल हुए है; और

(घ) इन चोरियों में लिप्त चोरों को पकड़ने में कहां तक सफलता मिली है; यदि सफलता नहीं मिली है, तो इसके क्या कारण है?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राम नाइक): (क) जी नहीं।

(ख) निर्यात कार्गो को चोरी के पांच मामलों की रिपोर्ट 1996-97 के दौरान तथा 3 मामलों की रिपोर्ट 1997-98 के दौरान की गई थी, बहरहाल, 1.4.98 और 15.5.98 के बीच ऐसा कोई मामला नहीं हुआ है। चुराए गए कार्गो का अनुमानित मूल्य उपलब्ध नहीं है।

(ग) घरेलू कन्टेनर डिपो, तुगलकाबाद में चोरी की ऐसी घटनाओं पर नियंत्रण रखने के लिए निम्नलिखित उपाय किए गए हैं।

(i) 15.9.97 से सुरक्षा ड्यूटी के लिए केन्द्रीय औद्योगिक सुरक्षा बल तैनात किया गया है।

(ii) डिपो में व्यक्तियों के प्रवेश पर नियंत्रण रखने के लिए पहचान पत्रों तथा गेट पासों की प्रणाली शुरू की गई है।

(iii) भेद्य स्थानों पर चारदीवारी की ऊंचाई बढ़ाई गई है।

(iv) चार दिवारी के साथ-साथ निगरानी टावर बनाए गए हैं जिन पर चौबीसों घंटे आदमी तैनात होते हैं।

(v) दिल्ली पुलिस और रेल सुरक्षा बल के बीच निकट समन्वय बनाया जा रहा है।

उपरोक्त उपायों से निर्यात कार्गो की चोरी की घटनाएं कम करने में मदद मिलेगी।

(घ) वर्ष 1996-97 तथा 1997-98 के दौरान तुगलकाबाद के सुरक्षा कर्मियों द्वारा तीन अपराधी पकड़े गए थे और उन्हें दिल्ली पुलिस के हवाले कर दिया गया था।

Development of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants in Bihar

1194. **SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA:** Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing a central scheme for the development of medicinal and aromatic plants in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the results achieved therefrom; and

(d) the steps Government have taken to popularise the scheme in tribal and rural areas of the State?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (d) There is no specific scheme for development of medicinal and aromatic plants in Bihar. However, some central Ministries/ Departments/Institutions are implementing research and development projects as well as programmes on popularisation of medicinal and aromatic plants. These include: micropropagation, development of agro-technologies, collection and conservation of medicinal and aromatic plants in herbal garden as well as generation of high quality and genetically uniform planting material. Other programmes under implementation with promising results are training and technology transfer to farmers and entrepreneurs alongwith technical advice for cultivation and processing and providing relevant literature for popularisation of medicinal and aromatic plants in Bihar. About 40 farmers have received training.

Bio-prospecting of Biological Wealth

1195. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any multi-institutional project has been initiated to catalogue and bio-prospect the biological wealth in East Himalayas and the South-Western Ghats; and

(b) if so, what are the details of this project, its financial implications and the benefits proposed to be derived from this project?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A multi-institutional (13 in number) collaborative programme on Bioprospecting of Biological Wealth has been supported by Department of Biotechnology for characterization, inventorization and conservation of Biodiversity of North Eastern Himalayas and Southern Western Ghats. The programme would help in cataloguing and characterizing the economically important species of the region. Studies on the genetic diversity of the species existing in these regions have been undertaken. The endangered plant species would be conserved and the important genes and molecules identified and characterized for potential use. The programme has started from October, 1997 with an outlay of Rs. 11.53 crores for 5 years.

Scientific Encyclopaedia Titled "THE WEALTH OF INDIA"

1196. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Institute of Science Communication (NISCOM) under CSIR has been publishing a Scientific encyclopedia named "The Wealth of India" since 1948;

(b) whether it is also a fact that an organisation named Asian Health and Allied Data (AHEAD) has been collaborating with National Institute of Science Communication (NISCOM) in bringing out the CD-ROM version of the above publication;

(c) if so, the details of the understanding between National Institute of Science Communication (NISCOM) and Asian Health and Allied Data (AHEAD) and the legal status of Asian Health and Allied Data (AHEAD); and

(d) the owner of the copyright version of the CD-ROM version?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Asian Health and Allied Data (AHEAD) is a consortium of 9 organisations of which 8 are